(c) if so, what were the reasons for purchasing an equipment for setting up an amusement park in Appu Ghar at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from International Amusement Limited without calling for tenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Trade Fair Authority of India has not purchased any equipment from any foreign firm in connection with setting up of Appu Ghar in Pragati Maidan. It has only licenced out a portion of land in Pragati Maidan to M/s. International Amusement Ltd, for setting up of Appu Ghar. The rides and equipments for Appu Ghar have been purchased from abroad by M/s. International Amusement Ltd directly

Payment of Excise Duty by Small Scale Sector to Brand Name Owners

2457 SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small scale entrepreneurs have expressed their resentment over the sudden reversal of Government policy regarding excise duty to be paid on supplies made by small scale sector to brand name owners,

(b) whether such a reversal is in violation of the Prime Minister's assurance in his Budget speech that such small scale unit would be entitled to duty concessions; and

(c) whether Government would revise their policy in view of the complaints received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Representations have been received from small scale manufacturers against the decision of the Government to deny the benefit of small scale exemption schemes in the case of goods manufactured under the brand name of a big manufacturer or trader.

(b) There was no assurance in the Budget speech in this regard.

(c) There is no proposal at present to reverse the decision in this regard.

Recommendations made by CESS regarding the terms of reference of Ninth Finance Commission

2458. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar organised at Hyderabad recently by the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) has recommended far-reaching changes in the terms of reference of the Ninth Finance Commission; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Government has not received from the Centre for Economic and Social Studies any report on the recommendations made in the seminar organised by it at Hyderabad.

World Bank Assistance for Social Forestry Programmes

2459. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain international development agencies and also the World Bank are assisting in many of India's social forestry programmes; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?